

Planning and Project Implementation Update



July 2012

ABOUT THIS UPDATE

The purpose of the Chippewa Quarterly is to provide a summary of environmental analyses on the Chippewa National Forest. Issued quarterly, this is intended to complement other public involvement efforts initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers. Legal notices will continue to be published in the following local newspapers: Bemidji's *The Pioneer* for Forest Supervisor decisions; and Blackduck's *American*, Deer River's *Western Itasca Review*, and Walker's *The Pilot-Independent* for District Ranger decisions.

Projects are classified into one of three categories:

Environmental Analyses in Progress

This category includes projects in which public input is being or is about to be solicited. It also includes those projects that are currently under study or analysis. Environmental analyses include Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), and Categorical Exclusions (CE).

Completed Decision Documents

These projects have culminated in the preparation of completed environmental analyses and decision documents since the last issue. These decision documents include Records of Decision (ROD), Decision Notices (DN), and Decision Memos (DM). Findings of No Significant Impacts will be included in this category, also.

Proposals Cancelled or On Hold

Some projects initiated and published in this Quarterly may be cancelled or deferred for various reasons. These projects may or may not be picked up for completion at a later date.

HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comments on a project, get more information, or be placed on the project mailing list, write or call the contact person listed for that project. It is only through site-specific input that we can be responsive to and incorporate your concerns into project development.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Appeal Period - The 45-day period after publication of a decision in which an appeal can be filed.

Categorical Exclusion (CE) - A category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

Comment Period - The time allowed for interested persons to provide comments to a Responsible Official on a proposed action.

Decision Memo (DM) - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision to implement an action that has been categorically excluded from documentation.

Decision Notice (DN) - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision based on an environmental assessment and a finding of no significant impact.

Environmental Assessment (EA) - A document that presents issues and concerns important to a project, alternate means of accomplishing a project, and environmental effects of each of those alternatives.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - This document is required for proposed actions that may have significant effects on the human environment. The contents are similar to an environmental assessment, and it includes some additional sections.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) - A document prepared by a federal agency presenting the reasons why an action, not otherwise excluded, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The procedural guide for the decision making process for site-specific projects.

Proposed Action - A proposal made by the Forest Service to authorize, recommend, or implement an action on National Forest System lands to meet a specific purpose and need which is subject to public notice comment provisions.

Scoping - Includes internal and public involvement to determine the range of issues to be addressed. Scoping aids in the development of alternatives for a proposed action.

Significance - As used in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), requires consideration of both context and intensity.

Anticipated "Walk-in" Business

Requests from the public occasionally necessitate analyses be completed with a short turn-around. This may mean that decisions are made without prior announcement in this Update. As these projects come up for consideration however, they will continue to be announced by legal notices in newspapers. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads and utility rights-of-way. Scoping efforts for these requests will be conducted as applicable.

Forest Policy on Distributing Documents

Draft and Final Environmental Assessments and Decision Notices/FONSI's and Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements and Records of Decision are routinely mailed to individuals who provide comments on a project. We do not routinely distribute biological assessments or biological evaluations with the previously listed documents. If you wish to receive biological evaluations or biological assessments for NEPA projects, please contact the district and/or Supervisor's Office NEPA Coordinators.

Privacy on Comments Received

Comments received in response to solicitation as part of the NEPA process, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on a proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentially should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within stated number of days.



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA) 07/01/2012 to 09/30/2012

Chippewa National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

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Projects Occurring Nationwide							
Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: A Cooperative Approach	_	management prest products)	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 09/19/2008 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 10/2012	Expected:10/2012	01/2013	Noel Schneeberger 610-557-4121 nschneeberger@fs.fed. us	
	Description: The USDA Forest Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are analyzing a range of strategies for controlling gypsy moth damage to forests and trees in the United States. Web Link: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/wv/eis/ Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Nationwide.						
Land Management Planning Rule EIS	- Regulations Orders	s, Directives,	Completed	Actual: 03/23/2012	08/2012	Brenda Halter-Glenn 202-260-9400 bhalterglenn@fs.fed.us	
_	Description: The Department of Agriculture proposes to promulgate a new planning rule, which will set out the process for development, revision, and amendment of National Forest System land management plans. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Agency-wide Rule.						

Chippewa National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest) R9 - Eastern Region									
Reservoir Operating Plan Evaluation (ROPE) Study EIS	Recreation managementWildlife, Fish, Rare plantsWatershed management	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants							
		Description: Operation of Federal dams and coordination with operators of non-Federal dams in the headwaters of the Mississippi River area between Bemidji and St. Paul							
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.	k: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=2521							
	Location: UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. Upper Mississippi River between Bemidji and St. Paul.								

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Project Name	Proje	ect Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact			
Chippewa National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide) R9 - Eastern Reg									
Ash Diversification Collaboration Project EA		management prest products)	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/06/2012 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 09/2012	Expected:10/2012	03/2013	Gary Swanson 218-335-8652 ghswanson@fs.fed.us			
	 Description: Stands of ash with low species diversity were identified on NF lands and adjacent ownerships. Introduction of other species through harvest and regeneration, using a collaborative approach, is planned to minimize future effects of emerald ash borer. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=38753 Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District, Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. Deer River and Walker District. 								
Johnson Telephone Company permit issuance CE *NEW LISTING*	permit issuance 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 04/26/2012					Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed. us			
NEW LISTING	Description:	proposed issuance	of a special use permit to Johnson	Telephone for existin	g lines on National	Forest lands			
	Web Link:		s/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?proje	·	-				
	Location:		ger District, Deer River Ranger Dist Districts, south of US Hwy 2.	trict. STATE - Minnes	sota. COUNTY - 0	Cass. Walker and			

Chippewa National Forest Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) R9 - Eastern Region									
Alvwood Woodcock Habitat Improvement Project CE	- Wildlife, Fis	sh, Rare plants	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 08/2012	Expected:09/2012	02/2013	Cory Mlodik 218-835-3119 corymlodik@fs.fed.us			
NEW LISTING	Description	rescription: The purpose of the project is to maintain and improve 37 acres of woodcock habitat in the Popple River Watershed. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=39453							
	Web Link:								
	Location:		Ranger District. STATE - Minnesot south of Alvwood, MN.	ta. COUNTY - Itasca.	LEGAL - T149N,	, R28W, Sections			

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact				
Chippewa National Forest Bla	ckduck Ranger District (excludi	R9 - Eastern Region							
Farley Resource Management EA	- Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/20/2012 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 09/2012	art 03/20/2012 omment Period Legal		Thomas Heutte 907-835-3107 theutte@fs.fed.us				
	Description: Timber sale, refores	escription: Timber sale, reforestation, and various other associated projects							
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us	s/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?proje	ect=37104						
	149N , R 27 W to R	Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota 30 W. Bounded on the north by Sk I on the west by Decker Lake.							
Knutson Dam Improvement Project EA	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 08/2012	Expected:05/2013	06/2014	Luke Rutten 209-965-3434 x5321 Irutten@fs.fed.us				
NEW LISTING	Description: Project focuses on failure. Improveme	Description: Project focuses on structural maintenance needs of current dam structure in order to prevent possible structural failure. Improvements would allow for passage of aquatic organisms.							
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck R River at the outlet of	Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota of Cass Lake.	a. COUNTY - Cass.	Dam in located on	the Mississippi				
Rabideau CCC Camp Management EA	- Recreation management - Special use management - Facility management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/13/2011 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 07/2012	Expected:09/2012	10/2012	Ann Long-Voelkner 218-835-3116 alongvoelkner@fs.fed.u s				
	structural land uses	Description: Updates to the use and management of the CCC camp, including seasons of use, maintained buildings, and non-structural land uses.							
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck R	Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota R30W Section 18. Rabideau CCC (a. COUNTY - Beltrar	ni. LEGAL - T148I	N R31N Sections				

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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact			
Chippewa National Forest B	Blackduck Ranger District (excludir	R9 - Eastern Region						
West Winnie Boat Launch Reconfiguration EA *NEW LISTING*	Recreation managementWildlife, Fish, Rare plantsFacility management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/07/2012 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 07/2012	Expected:08/2012	04/2013	Cory Mlodik 218-835-3119 corymlodik@fs.fed.us			
NEW EloTING	faucet snail (Bithynia Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us	Description: The purpose of the West Winnie Boat Launch Project is to reduce the risk of transporting the aquatic invasive faucet snail (Bithynia tentaculata) to other bodies of water on boats/trailers. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=38945						

Chippewa National Forest D	er River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) R9 - Eastern Region									
Bowen Lodge Issuance of Marina Permit CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/04/2012	Expected:07/2012	07/2012	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed. us					
NEW LISTING	authorization for a n	Description: This proposal is for the issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an expired authorization for a marina on Lake Winnibegoshish.								
Deer River Tree Cooler EA	Vegetation management (other than forest products)Facility management	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 06/14/2012	Expected:10/2012	04/2013	Gregory Van Orsow 828-652-2144 gvanorsow@fs.fed.us					
	Description: Build a tree cooler of	on the Chippewa National Forest at	the Deer River admin	istrative site.						
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us	s/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?proje	ect=38508							
	Location: UNIT - Deer River F 1037 Division Stree	Ranger District. STATE - Minnesot et, Deer River, MN.	a. COUNTY - Itasca.	Deer River admi	nistrative site,					

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Project Name	Proje	ect Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact			
Chippewa National Forest De	er River Rang	River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) R9 - Eastern Region							
East McAvity summer home tract, Lot#5 CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use	management	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 05/17/2012	Expected:07/2012	07/2012	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed. us			
NEW LISTING	Description:	for issuance of a red	creation residence permit						
	Web Link:	http://www.fs.fed.us	/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?proje	ect=39355					
	Location:		Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota y summer home tract, Lot#5.	a. COUNTY - Itasca	. LEGAL - Section	35, T147N			
Grewe Road Special Use Permit Issuance CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use	management	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 04/26/2012	Expected:07/2012	07/2012	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed. us			
NEW LISTING	Description: Web Link:	This proposal is for http://www.fs.fed.us	Forest Service lan	Service lands					
	Location:	UNIT - Deer River F	Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota	a. COUNTY - Itasca	Section 20, T60N	N R26W.			
Lake County Power CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use	management	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 04/26/2012	Expected:07/2012	07/2012	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed. us			
	Description:	Description: The supporting analysis for the proposed installation of a street light located in Cass County at CR 9 and US Hwy 2; and the proposed rerouting of underground electric cable in Itasca County along CR 49 in Section 27, T58N R25W							
	Web Link:	http://www.fs.fed.us	/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?proje	ect=39112					
	Location:		Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota ounty along CR 49 in Section 27, T		Itasca. Cass Coul	nty at CR 9 and			

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Project Name	Proje	ect Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact				
Chippewa National Forest D	eer River Rang	River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) R9 - Eastern Region								
Larch Research Study Research Studies CE	(other than fo	management prest products) and Development	Completed	Actual: 06/01/2012	06/2012	Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us				
	Description:	Northern Research saw logs.	study the effects of thinning on red	I pine, white spruce a	nd European larch	to develop quality				
	Web Link:	http://www.fs.fed.us	s/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?proje	ect=37948						
	Location:		Ranger District. STATE - Minnesot erimental forest on the Deer River							
O¿Brien ¿ Lot#9 Highbanks Summer Home Tract CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use	management	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 04/26/2012	Expected:07/2012	07/2012	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed. us				
NEW LISTING	Description:	Description: Proposed addition to Mr. O¿Brien¿s cabin on Lot#9 of the Highbanks summer home tract.								
	Web Link:	http://www.fs.fed.us	s/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?proje	ect=39155						
	Location:	ocation: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. Cass County, Section 29, T146N R27W, Lot#9 Highbanks Summer Home Tract.								
Ruby Lake Camp storage CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use	management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/11/2012	Expected:07/2012	07/2012	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed. us				
	Description: proposed roof-only covered storage on the east side of building #4 (supply/shop)									
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=39571									
	Location:	UNIT - Deer River F Lake Camp building	Ranger District. STATE - Minnesot g #4.	a. COUNTY - Itasca	. LEGAL - Section	8, T58N. Ruby				
Six Mile Dam CE	- Wildlife, Fis	h, Rare plants	Completed	Actual: 05/31/2012	08/2012	Eric Raitanen 218-246-3475 ericraitanen@fs.fed.us				
		with a structure that	pidated and not functioning and is a passes fish and has low maintena	ince.	tion. This project v	vill replace the dam				
	Web Link:	http://www.fs.fed.us	s/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?proje	ect=32333						
	Location:		Ranger District. STATE - Minnesot t Cass County, MN.	a. COUNTY - Cass.	LEGAL - T144N F	R27W S17. Deer				

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Project Name	Proje	ect Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact		
Chippewa National Forest D	Deer River Rang	r River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) R9 - Eastern R						
South Highbanks summer home tract, Lot#2 CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use	management	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed. us					
NEW Elevano	Description: Web Link:	 for issuance of a recreation residence permit to a new owner & termination of the current permit under the sellers name http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=39414 						
	Location:	.ocation: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - Section 31, T146N R27W. Section 31, T146N R27W in South Highbanks summer home tract Lot# 2.						
South Highbanks summer home tract, Lot#3 CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use	management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/16/2012 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 06/2012	Expected:07/2012	07/2012	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed. us		
	Description: Web Link:	Description: for issuance of a recreation residence permit to a new owner & termination of the current permit under the sellers name Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=39416						
	Location:							
Suomi Hills Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Area Trail Project	- Recreation	management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Ann Long-Voelkner 218-335-8616 alongvoelkner@fs.fed.u s		
	Description:		standard roads to trails, new trail conclassified roads, and parking areas			ition of gates/berms		
	Location:	project area is locat	Ranger District. STATE - Minnesot ted west of MN Highway 38; south ject is within the designated Soumi	and east of Itasca Co	unty Road 48; and			

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact				
Chippewa National Forest De	er River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) R9 - Eastern Region								
Talmoon Vegetation Management Project EA	- Forest products	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 06/14/2012	Expected:07/2012	01/2013	Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us				
	Description: located in the easter	Description: located in the eastern portion of the Chippewa National Forest							
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us	·							
	Range 26 West; To	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - Township 58 North, Range 26 West; Township 59 North, Range 26-27 West; Township 60 North, Range 26-27 West; T147N R 25-26 W; T148N R 25¿26 W; T149N R25-26W. eastern portion of the Chippewa National Forest.							
Treska, Lot#10 North Star summer home tract CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/24/2012 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 06/2012	Expected:07/2012	07/2012	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed. us				
NEW EloTino	Description: the proposed installation of a well in Section 32, T59N R26W								
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us	s/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?proje	ect=39417						
		Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota summer home tract. Section 32, T59		. LEGAL - Section	32, T59N R26W				

Chippewa National Forest Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) R9 - Eastern Regi							
Bud Lake Woodcock Habitat Improvement Project CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 08/2012	Expected:09/2012	02/2013	Cory Mlodik 307-276-5808 corymlodik@fs.fed.us		
NEW LISTING	Description: Maintenance and improvement of 12 acres of woodcock habitat in the Portage Creek watershed. This includes shearing decadent alder and allowing it to regenerate. This project would be completed in winter under frozen ground conditions.						
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. South of Hwy 2 and north of Bud Lake on the north end of the Walker RD.						

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Project Name	Project Purpose		Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact			
Chippewa National Forest Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) R9 - Eastern Region									
D&D Homeowners Association CE	- Road management		Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2012	Expected:08/2012	08/2012	Steven Frick 218-547-6002 ext 112 scfrick@fs.fed.us			
	Description: Permit for existing road. Existing road is about 350 feet09 miles length, 20 feet width, containing app .20 acres. Road provides access to homeowners.								
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T 141 N, R 30 W 1/2 SWSW, Cass County. ROW .09 miles in length, 20 feet in width, about .20 acres.								
Pine Vegetation Management Project EA	(other than fo	management rest products)	Completed	Actual: 06/13/2012	08/2012	Deborah Overton 218-547-6002 x130 doverton@fs.fed.us			
	 Description: Commercially thin plantation origin conifer on the Walker Ranger District to improve growth and vigor, for health, and species diversity. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37583 								
	Location:								
Portage Lake Aquatic Organism Passage CE		n, Rare plants management	Completed	Actual: 05/23/2012	09/2012	David Morley 218-547-1044 damorley@fs.fed.us			
	Description: Replace the existing dam on the Soo Line Trail, about 0.3 of a mile west of the junction with FR2131, with a natural grade control structure and span the newly constructed opening with a bridge or large culvert.								
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=36249								
		UNIT - Walker Ranç Line Trail.	ger District. STATE - Minnesota.	COUNTY - Cass. LE	GAL - T145N R29\	W Sec36 . SOO			

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Project Name Project Purpose Plannir	Expected Implementation Project Contact
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